

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /119 W
----- 099854

P R 010825Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3958

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11789

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: ICCS: CANDEL ACTION RESOLVES PLENARY DEADLOCK

REF: SAIGON 11782

1. SUMMARY: DURING JUNE 30 PLENARY SESSION, ON FINAL DAY AS
ICCS CHAIRMAN, CANDEL AMBASSADOR GAUVIN RESOLVED PLENARY IMPASSE
OVER THREE NVA PRISONER INTERROGATION REPORTS BY ANNOUNCING HE
WAS FORWARDING REPORTS TO TPJMC AS ICCS CHAIRMAN DESPITE STRONG
OBJECTIONS OF HUNGDEL/POLDEL. GAUVIN APPARENTLY
CONVINCED INDODEL IN PRIVATE TALKS NOT TO DISAGREE WITH THIS
ACTION AND INDODEL SUBSEQUENTLY STATED IN PLENARY THAT IT ONLY
"DISASSOCIATED ITSELF" FROM CANDEL ACTION. ICCS COMMISSION
SHOULD BEGIN ACTION ON ONE-MONTH BACKLOG OF AGENDA ITEMS AT
NEXT PLENARY WHICH HUNGDEL AS JULY ICCS CHAIRMAN, IS EXPECTED
TO CONVENE IN SEVERAL DAYS. END SUMMARY.

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2. AFTER SIX HOURS OF DEBATE, BACK-ROOM TALKS, AND JUGGLING WITH SEMANTICS, ICCS IN JUNE 30 PLENARY APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED THE CHAPTER ON THE THREE CONTROVERSIAL NVA PRISONER INTERROGATION REPORTS WHICH HAD STALLED OTHER PLENARY ACTION FOR OVER A MONTH. WITH CONSIDERABLE SHREWDNESS AND PERSISTENCE, GAUVIN ACHIEVED PERHAPS THE MOST SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO DEADLOCK (AND UNEXPECTED BY CANDEL) BY LEANING ON INDODEL IN PRIVATE TALKS DURING PLENARY AND RIDING ROUGHSHOD OVER HUNGDEL/POLDEL OBJECTIONS IN OPEN PLENARY DISCUSSION.

3. IT WAS READILY APPARENT SHORTLY AFTER PLENARY OPENED THAT NO HIP DEL WAS PREPARED TO OFFER NEW PROPOSAL OR COMPROMISE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITION, GAUVIN, THEREFORE, ANNOUNCED HE WAS SENDING THE THREE REPORTS TO TPJMC IN HIS POSITION AS ICCS CHAIRMAN UNDER COVERING LETTER WITH REFERENCE TO ARTICLES 18(C) OF THE AGREEMENT AND 3(B) OF THE PROTOCOL.

4. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH INDODEL, GAUVIN GOT INDODEL TO SCALE DOWN PREVIOUS OBJECTIONS TO SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION AND, AT LEAST, AGREE NOT TO DISAGREE. FOLLOWING GAUVIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN PLENARY, INDODEL STATED IT "DISASSOCIATED ITSELF FROM CANDEL DECISION" AND WOULD SUBMIT ITS OWN LETTER WITH FORWARDED REPORTS. HUNGDEL/POLDEL TOTALLY DISAGREED BUT WERE POWERLESS TO PREVENT GAUVIN'S ACTION.

5. PLENARY ADJOURNED WITH UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT TO BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF NEXT PLENARY WITH ITEM 7 OF 66TH PLENARY AGENDA (NOT 64TH AS REPORTED REFTTEL) WHICH HAD ADJOURNED SINE DIE ONE MONTH AGO. HUNGDEL, AS JULY ICCS CHAIRMAN, IS EXPECTED TO CONVENE NEXT PLENARY WITHIN FEW DAYS.

6. THROUGHOUT JUNE 30 PLENARY, JUNGDEL/POLDEL ATTEMPTED TO AVIOD ANY ICCS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR ACTION CONCERNING THE THREE CONTROVERSIAL REPORTS, AGENDA ITEM 4, 5, 6. HUNGDEL/POLDEL WOULD ONLY "TAKE NOTE" THAT NEXT PLENARY WOULD BEGIN WITH ITEM 7 BUT REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THAT ITEMS 4, 5, 6 HAD BEEN DELT WITH BY ICCS OR EVEN EXISTED.

7. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR GAUVIN COULD HAVE TAKEN THIS ACTION
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ON FIRST DAY OF CANDEL CHAIRMANSHIP IN JUNE BUT HE WAS PROBABLY DETERRED BY INDODEL OBJECTIONS AND CANDEL RECOGNITION THAT UNILATERAL ACTION WAS DRASTIC STEP. INDODEL AMB DHARSONO, WHO HAS NEVER BEEN TOO SYMPATHETIC TO PUSHY CANDEL BEHAVIOR, HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN FURTHER ALIENATED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GAUVIN'S ACTION WILL SET DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE BEHAVIOR OF ROTATING ICCS CHAIRMAN BUT HUNGDEL/POLDEL HAVE GONE ON RECORD THAT ICCS CHAIRMAN HAS NO

POWER TO TAKE ANY ACTION BUT THAT UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO BY ICCS.
STILL LURKING ON HORIZON WILL BE POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS BY HUNGDEL/
POLDEL TO RENEW INSISTENCE THAT AGENDA REQUIRES UNANIMOUS
CONSENT, WHEN NEXT CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS ARE RAISED.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON11789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WHITEHOUSE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730758/aaaabqps.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 SAIGON 11782
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <23-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICCS: CANDEL ACTION RESOLVES PLENARY DEADLOCK
TAGS: MARR, PARM, VS, ICC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005